



THEFT

Identity Theft

A silent crime with a
BIG impact on
your future!



Iowa Department
of Transportation



When bad things happen to your good name

Identity theft crimes are on the rise, causing nationwide concern. In Iowa, the Department of Transportation's Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement is taking an aggressive stand on identity theft relating to your driver's license, ID and motor vehicle title(s). When someone uses your identity to obtain an Iowa DL, ID or title, the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement's Investigative Unit may be able to help you.

How does identity theft occur?

Identity thieves steal or obtain Social Security cards and numbers, birth certificates, immigration documents or personal information that is unique to you. The identity thief can then use this information to:

- obtain a driver's license or ID card;
- open a bank account or obtain credit in your name;
- purchase an automobile or real estate;
- drain personal financial accounts;
- obtain fraudulent driving and criminal records;
- secure fraudulent government benefits; and/or
- obtain employment.

As a result, your driving privileges can be suspended and your credit rating destroyed. In addition, you may have trouble obtaining government benefits, and you may be held liable in civil suits or criminal cases for motor vehicle incidents. You may also be accused of not reporting wages, which can result in a substantial tax liability. All of these problems will require countless hours of telephone and written communications to resolve the problem.

How to protect yourself from becoming a victim

- Carry only those items needed in your purse or wallet. Avoid carrying your Social Security card, your birth certificate, blank checks, numerous credit cards, or a motor vehicle title.
- Check your driving and credit record on an annual basis.

- Replace your Social Security number on your driver's license with an "assigned" number.
- Shred all bills and records you no longer need that contain personal identifying information.
- Check your Social Security records for unexplained earnings.
- Report lost or stolen documents, such as driver's license, ID card or vehicle titles, to law enforcement officials.
- Place "fraud alerts" on your credit file to warn creditors not to open a new account until they contact you.
- Use your "assigned" DL number on your checks.

Are you a victim of identity theft?

If you are a victim of identity theft relating to your Iowa driver's license, ID or motor vehicle title, the Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement has an investigative unit that may be able to assist you with this crime. If an investigation is conducted, it may result in clearing your driving record and determining proper ownership of vehicles. If necessary, the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement may assist you by notifying other private and governmental agencies of the results of the investigation. In addition, the investigation may result in filing of criminal charges and administrative sanctions against the offender.

Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement

In order to deter identity theft, the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement's Investigative Unit requests your assistance in reporting anyone you may know who is using a stolen identity. To report the misuse of someone's identity, please contact the address below.

How to file a complaint

In order to file an identity theft complaint, you will be required to complete a written or electronic complaint form, provided by the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement, along with requested records and supporting documents.

To file a complaint or to obtain more information on identity theft, you can contact the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement by calling our headquarters, submitting a request in writing, or sending an e-mail to our DL fraud coordinator at dale.eide@dot.state.ia.us.



**Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement
Investigative Unit**

Park Fair Mall, 100 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50313
General Number 515-237-3221
Fax 515-237-3387

www.dot.state.ia.us/mvd/omve

More information can be obtained from:

Iowa Attorney General Office

Consumer Protection Division

1300 E. Walnut

Hoover Building

Des Moines, IA 50319

515-281-5926

www.state.ia.us/government/ag

**Additional governmental agencies
to contact about identity theft are:**

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Consumer Response Center

600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.

Washington, DC 20580

877-438-4338

Social Security Administration

Office of Inspector General

210 Walnut St.

Des Moines, IA 50309

800-772-1213

Internal Revenue Service

Criminal Investigation Division

P.O.Box 7909, Stop 9000

Shawnee Mission, KS 66207-7909

800-829-0433

To obtain information concerning your driving record, you must personally appear at your local driver's license station and be able to prove your identity. To obtain information concerning registration and title records, you may contact your local county treasurer's office.